

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 1-74. (Cancelled)

1 75. (Currently Amended): A system for programming a household appliance having an
2 electronic control that manages the execution by the appliance of a plurality of programs
3 consisting of treatment phases, the system including:

4 a microcontroller,

5 a first memory associated with the microcontroller, the first memory storing as
6 write protected during the manufacturing of the appliance first information that is used by
7 the control system to execute a given number of first programs of the appliance, the first
8 programs allowing the immediate use of the appliance after the completion of manufac-
9 turing;

10 a control panel residing on the appliance, the control panel including user-
11 operated controls for the selection and the control of the execution of the first programs,

12 communication means for interfacing the control system to an external electronic
13 programming device,

14 a writeable and erasable second memory resident on the appliance for storing sec-
15 ond information provided by the external programming device, once the appliance has
16 been marketed and/or installed at a user's premises, the second information

17 allowing the control system to execute second programs which are in addition to
18 and different from the first programs, the second programs being user-defined, and

19 allowing the user to select and command the execution of the second programs
20 through the control panel residing on the appliance,

21 the second information being encoded and stored in the second memory for an
22 undetermined time, until the user directs a subsequent modification or cancellation of the
23 second information through the external programming device.

1 76. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, further including a means
2 for preventing the storage within the second memory of information which might lead to
3 unsatisfactory results or performance of the appliance.

1 77. (Previously Presented): The system according to the claim 75, wherein the first in-
2 formation relates to the subdivision of the programs into various treatment phases and
3 respective phases are characterized by determined values of control parameters of inter-
4 nal devices or actuators of the appliance.

1 78. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 77, wherein at least a part the
2 first information relates to the values of control parameters that characterize the various
3 phases into which the first programs are subdivided.

1 79. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 77, wherein at least a part of
2 the second information relates to the values of the control parameters characterizing the
3 various phases into which the second programs are subdivided.

1 80. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 77, wherein the first and/or
2 second information includes for a given phase the duration of the phase, a temperature
3 value being characteristic of the phase, the configuration and/or the mode of operation for
4 the internal devices or actuators of the appliance during the phase.

1 81. (currently amended): The system according to claim 75, wherein the second infor-
2 mation comprises the respective second programs in which the user defines treatment
3 phases, control parameters for the various phases or both.

1 82. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 81, wherein the data identi-
2 fying a given second program comprises an order number.

1 83. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 81, wherein the data identi-
2 fying a given second program comprises a name in alphabetical, numerical and/or
3 graphic characters.

1 84. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 81, wherein the data identi-
2 fying a given second program comprises numerical information and alphabetical or al-
3 phanumerical information.

1 85. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein the first memory
2 comprises at least a part of the program memory of the microcontroller.

1 86. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein the first memory
2 comprises a memory of the ROM type.

1 87. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein the second
2 memory comprises a memory of the EEPROM type.

1 88. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein the external pro-
2 gramming device is a personal computer.

1 89. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein control system
2 further includes means for executing the second programs under the direct control of the
3 external programming device.

1 90. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 75, wherein means are pro-
2 vided for using the control system of the appliance as an executor of controls coming
3 from the external programming device, with the appliance behaving like a peripheral de-
4 vice connected to the external programming device.

1 91. (Currently Amended): A household appliance electronic control system, the control
2 system comprising:

3 a microcontroller,

4 a first memory associated with the microcontroller, the first memory containing
5 first information for use by the control system to execute a given number of first pro-
6 grams of the appliance, the first programs allowing the immediate use of the appliance
7 once the manufacturing of the same has been completed, the first memory being write-
8 protected for inhibiting the modification of the first information relating to the first pro-
9 grams,

10 a second memory associated with the microcontroller, for storing second infor-
11 mation once the appliance has been marketed and/or installed at a user's premises, the
12 second information allowing the control system to execute second programs which are in
13 addition to and different from the first programs, the second programs being user-defined.

14 the second memory being writeable and erasable for allowing the storage, and/or the ~~let-~~
15 ~~ter~~ later modification of the second information relating to the second programs,

16 a communication interface for connecting the control system to an external pro-
17 gramming device, through which the second information is provided,

18 a control panel residing on the appliance for the selection and the control of the
19 execution of the first programs and the second programs.

1 92. (Previously Presented): The household appliance according to claim 91, wherein the
2 appliance is a cooking oven.

1 93. (Previously Presented): The household appliance according to claim 91, wherein the
2 appliance is a washing machine.

1 94. (Previously Presented): The household appliance according to claim 91, wherein the
2 communication interface is a serial port.

1 95. (Currently Amended): The household appliance according claim 91, wherein the
2 communication interface is an adapter for connecting the control system to a home bus;
3 ~~in particular a power line carrier bus.~~

1 96. (Previously Presented): The household appliance according claim 91, wherein the
2 control panel includes a display device.

1 97. (Previously Presented): The household appliance according to claim 96, wherein the
2 control system provides for the sequential displaying on the display device of data identi-
3 fying the second programs.

1 98. (Currently Amended): A method for programming a household appliance having an
2 electronic control system that executes a plurality of programs, the method including the
3 steps of:

4 storing first information within a first memory of the control system during the
5 manufacturing stage of the appliance, the first information being used by the control sys-
6 tem to control the execution of a given number of first programs of the appliance, the first
7 programs allowing the immediate use of the appliance once the manufacturing of the
8 same has been completed,

9 write protecting the first information to inhibit the modification of the first infor-
10 mation after the information has have been stored in the first memory,

11 controlling at desired times the selection and the command of the execution of the
12 first programs through a control panel on the appliance,

13 after the appliance has been marketed or installed at a user's premises, interfacing
14 the control system to an external programming device;

15 obtaining, through the external programming device, second information for al-
16 lowing the control system to execute second additional programs that differ from the first
17 programs, the second programs being user-defined, the second information comprising
18 data identifying the second additional programs;

19 storing the second information, in a writeable and erasable manner within a sec-
20 ond memory of the control system;

21 controlling at desired times the selection and command of the execution of the
22 second additional programs using the identifying data that is part of the second informa-
23 tion;

24 selectively modifying or deleting the second information, as desired by the user.

1 99. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 98, further including the step
2 of reading out the first and/or second information from the control system by means of
3 the external programming device.

1 100. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 99, further including the
2 steps of

3 modifying, by means of the external programming device, the first information
4 read out,

5 storing the relevant modified information within the second memory and pairing
6 the modified information with data identifying the modified information as being associ-
7 ated with a given second additional program.

1 101. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 98, further including the step
2 of establishing a connection between the external programming device and a remote sys-
3 tem, ~~in particular an Internet site.~~

1 102. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 101, further including the
2 step of downloading the second information from the remote system through the external
3 programming device.

1 103. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 101, further including the
2 step of sending the second information to the remote system through the external pro-
3 gramming device.

1 104. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 103, further including ~~in~~the
2 step of loading the second information contained in the second memory into a memory of
3 the external programming device.

1 105. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 98, wherein a user, through
2 a user interface provided for the external programming device

3 displays data,

4 edits the second programs to subdivide a given program to be edited into various
5 treatment phases and display the values of control parameters of internal devices or ac-
6 tuators of the appliance for each of the phases of the second programs, and

7 stores the second information relating to the edited second programs within the
8 second memory.

1 106. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the editing
2 further comprises the displaying of the control parameters in a graphic form.

1 107. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the editing
2 further comprises entering and displaying data that identifies a selected program to be
3 edited.

1 108. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the editing
2 further comprises the selection of a phase of interest among the phases into which a se-
3 lected program to be edited is subdivided and displaying at least some of the control pa-
4 rameters relating to the selected phase.

1 109. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 105, wherein the editing
2 further comprises the generation and representation of a Cartesian plane showing, on the
3 abscissa, the duration of the various phases forming the program to be edited, and on the
4 ordinates, another parameter relating to the phases, ~~in particular a temperature value.~~

1 110. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the editing
2 further comprises the suppression of at least one of the phases into which the program to
3 be edited is subdivided.

1 111. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the displaying
2 depicts, in real time, data relating to the progress or status of a program being run on the
3 appliance.

1 112. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 105, wherein the program
2 to be edited is a cooking program for an oven and the control parameters include:

3 the duration of a selected phase, and/or

4 the temperature to be reached within the oven during the selected phase, and/or

5 the configuration and/or operating mode of heat sources of the oven (1), and/or

6 the type of ventilation of possible use during the selected phase, and/or

7 the modes of a possible use of a grill heater during the selected phase.

Please insert new claims 113-119:

- 1 113. (New) The household appliance according claim 95, wherein the home bus is a
2 power line carrier bus.
- 1 114. (New) The method according to claim 101, wherein the remote system is an Inter-
2 net site.
- 1 115. (New) The method according to claim 109, wherein the another parameter relating
2 to the phases is a temperature value.
- 1 116. (New) The system according to claim 75, further including means for dynamically
2 changing configuration of the values during execution of the respective second programs.
- 1 117. (New) The system according to claim 75, wherein the external programming de-
2 vice displays operating status of the appliance during execution of the second programs.
- 1 118. (New) The method according to claim 98, further including the step of dynamically
2 changing configuration of the values during execution of the second programs.
- 1 119. (New) The method according to claim 98, further including the step of displaying,
2 on the external programming device, operating status of the appliance during execution
3 of the second programs.